3: Latta Y-5 (1923-1948)1949 NS29 Yokuts NS29
Wukchumne

123 438 484 been made into a mass of partially decomposed granite, with an overburden of about ten feet of soil. Soon Ada grunted again, and the whole expedition gathered around her. With a sharpened stick, which she used to dig basketry roots, she was digging into the soft granite and removing chunks of a heavy [317] blue-black material which she called *Kodeen* (Ko'-de-en). This, [135] I have since been informed, is a form of crude graphite, which was deposited in crevices in the top of the granite.

386 While the rest dug, Ichow explained to me how the old-time Yokuts used to prepare paint from this material and how they used to paint with it after it was prepared. A fire of dry oak wood was burned down to a heap of red coals. Then the graphite was dumped into a hole in the center and covered with hot coals from the rim of the fire bed. This was left until the entire bed of coals was reduced to ashes. After the whole mass had cooled, the burned graphite was carefully removed and placed in a bag of tanned deer-skin. Ichow later burned some of the material we gathered that day, but he did not follow exactly his own directions.

When the wood had burned to a mass of red-hot coals, Ichow placed the graphite in a portion of the bottom of a broken cast-iron kettle and sank it in the coals where it soon became red-hot. Within a couple of hours he removed the container and set it aside to cool. When I examined the material I found that it had changed character and color. Instead of being composed of several lumps of hard, heavy, blue-black material, almost exactly like the Rising Sun Stove Polish in use when I was a boy, it had slacked into a fine, sooty, black powder, in appearance like commercial lamp-black, but heavier.

[302] In this manner was gathered and prepared the black paint for which the ceremonies of the Yokuts tribes were famous. Officials who danced in these ceremonies painted their bodies black. In some tribes white stripes were painted across the chest and abdomen, vertical white stripes on the legs and arms, and large white spots on the face.

[439] White for this painting was prepared from diatomaceous earth, some of which was traded from Yokuts who lived in the [317] Coast Range of mountains. One deposit of this crude chalk lies near Lompoc and another near Crow Creek in Western Stanislaus County. It provided a pure white pigment.

[824] Both of the above pigments were mixed with plant juices to form a paint. One of my authorities, *Pahmit*, a *Dumna*

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Yowlumne

A few Yowlumne traders traveled to what is now Inyo County to trade for mineral salt, and for obsidian, the volcanic glass used in making arrow and spear points. They also traveled to the West Side to trade for asphaltum from the deposits near present Maricopa and McKittrick. Some venturesome traders traveled to the coast near Moro Bay to trade for abalone, Pismo clam, keyhole limpet, and periwinkle shells, from which some of their ornaments and money were made.

Many kinds of herbs, roots and seeds in addition to saltweed ashes and salt from salt grass, were traded, but to a limited extent, because the growth of most herbs and roots was wide-spread in the San Joaquin Valley. Dried wild blackberries were traded to the people who lived on the plains and lake shores away from the rivers, where those berries grew in abundance.

Yowlumne traders traveled as far north as *Yokohl* Valley, northeast of present Lindsay, to trade for steatite, or soapstone, from which were made their cooking vessels and one variety of bead money. Chalcedony, jasper, agate, and any other stone which was easily chipped into arrow points was also valued very highly. Rare curios or oddities of any kind had a high trade value. Quartz crystals, star-fish, sea urchins, cowrie shells, the canine teeth of grizzly bears, and any other uncommon objects, were certain of a ready market by trade.

To fully explain Yokuts trading and trade routes would require more space than is available for this entire article. But it is necessary to know at least something of this practice, which, because of the low mountain passes to both east and west, was probably more extensive among the Yowlumne than it was among most other Yokuts tribes.

According to old Yowlumne Indians, elk, deer and antelope skins, steatite and the salt from native salt grass were the local key articles of trade. They were scarce in much of the desert territory east of the Sierra.

Yowlumne traders would gather a pack of tanned skins, purchasing them with Yokuts money, and carry them to the desert, where there were deposits of obsidian, or volcanic glass. As there existed a set standard of values between deer skins and obsidian, it required only a short period of visiting, news exchange, and bartering before the Yowlumne trader was ready to return to his home on Kern River.